

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON  
FOR THE COUNTY OF YAMHILL**

**19CR34514**

**STATE OF OREGON        )**

**COUNTY OF YAMHILL    )**

**Probable Cause Affidavit  
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SALEM PD 19-18718**

I, the undersigned Peace Officer, after first being duly sworn upon oath do hereby swear or affirm that the following information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I have either direct knowledge of the events reported below or derivative knowledge from official police reports or the statements of other peace officers who, themselves, have direct knowledge of the events. The Offense occurred in Yamhill County.

**Date and Time of Arrest:** May 24, 2019    1345 Hrs        **Booking #:**

**SID #:**

**Arrestee:** Michael John Wolfe    **DOB** 03/25/1967

**Crime(s) Alleged:** ORS 163.095 Aggravated Murder 1<sup>st</sup> Degree X2  
                              ORS 163.235 Kidnap 1<sup>st</sup> Degree X2

**FILED**  
MAY 28 2019

**Date and Time of Crime:** May 13, 2019 to May 14, 2019

**Location:** Yamhill County, Oregon.

**Arresting Officer:** Detective Anthony VanDekoppel. Salem Police Department

**Brief Summary of Probable Cause:**

On May 17, 2019, A family member, contacted the Salem Police Department and reported a close family member, 25 year-old, (v)Karissa Fretwell, and Karissa's son, three year-old (V)William Fretwell, were missing from their residence located at 1065 Ruge Street NW in Salem, Polk County, Oregon. Salem Police Officer McDowell spoke to the family member on the phone. According to the family member, Karissa and William had not been seen since May 13, 2019. The family member stated this was very concerning to this family member and her family for several reasons. The family member stated on this date they had checked Karissa's apartment and found the front door unlocked, television on inside, items Karissa would need to take care of William, her bank card, and her Oregon Trail card were present in the apartment. During a subsequent visit by another family member it was learned Karissa's eyeglasses she can't be without were also located in the apartment. The family member stated both of Karissa's vehicles were also parked outside her above described apartment. The family member stated Karissa's cell phone was turned off and they had checked area hospitals and jails for Karissa, but she was not located. The family member stated she checked with Karissa's employer and Karissa had not been at work since May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019, equaling three shifts she had missed. The family member told Officer McDowell that this was highly unusual behavior for Karissa. In subsequent interviews with investigators the family member stated Karissa is never not in contact with either her family, her babysitters, or her employer. The family member also told Officer McDowell

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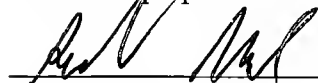
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that she knew Karissa was recently in court against William's father. Detective Sgt. Burke later was able to identify William's father as fifty two year old (S)Michael Wolfe. On May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Karissa and William were entered into LEDS/NCIC as missing persons. Sgt. Burke and Detective Tallan responded to Karissa's residence on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and verified both Karissa's vehicles were there and the apartment was as described by the family member. During this time Sgt. Burke and Detective Tallan interviewed several friends of Karissa none of whom had spoken or heard from her since May, 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019. On May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Sgt. Burke and Detective Tallan conducted an interview with Michael Wolfe at his residence at 2700 NW Phillips Rd, Gaston, Yamhill County, Or. At this time Michael admitted to having an intimate relationship with Karissa about four years ago. Michael stated his last contact with Karissa was when they had court on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019, during a child support hearing. He also stated he had not been to Salem in over a year. Michael stated the hearing did not go well and he was ordered to pay around nine hundred dollars a month. Michael stated he does not have Karissa's phone number or an active Facebook account to communicate with her on. Michael provided a timeline for the week in question stating he worked his normal 6:30 AM to 6:30 PM shift on May 10-13<sup>th</sup>, 2019, and then the following week off. Michael agreed to a follow up interview on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019. On May 20<sup>th</sup>, I conducted an interview with Karissa's babysitter for William. The babysitter told me she babysits for Karissa on Monday's, Tuesday's, and Wednesday's. The babysitter stated she babysat William on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and met with Karissa to return William on this date at approximately 4:00 PM, and that she was driving her Mercury Mountaineer (One of the vehicles located at her residence) at that time. The babysitter stated over the past three months she has had several conversations with Karissa about William's father (Michael) and Michael's wife. The babysitter said Karissa told her they had threatened Karissa that they were going to take William and get custody of him. On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Detective Emmons received an emergency disclosure of information from AT&T the phone provider for Karissa's phone. Detective Emmons learned that on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at approximately 2:27 PM Karissa's phone sent a text message and was found to be using the cell tower approximately 1.4 miles southeast of Gaston, Or. This cell tower would place it within the area to include the property at 2700 NW Phillips Rd, Michael's residence. On this same date Detective Emmons told me he also received location information placing Karissa's phone in the area of Michaels work at 3200 Oregon Hwy 99 West, McMinnville, Or. On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Michael was interviewed again at the Salem Police Department after being advised of his Miranda rights. At this time Michael maintained he had no contact with Karissa or William recently, and did not know where they were. Michael further stated he worked his whole shift on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and got off work around 6:00 AM or a little earlier on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Based on the interviews of Karissa's family and friends, I believe the only known person who would benefit from the disappearance or criminal homicide of Karissa and William is Michael. On May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019, Detective Gamble was allowed to view video surveillance at Michael's place of work Cascade Steel 3200 Oregon Hwy 99 West, McMinnville, Or. Michael was seen at approximately 8:45 PM leaving the area where he works, traveling in a golf cart to a carpenter shop, and then walking into a tree line behind the carpenter shop that would have access to the business parking lot. Detective Gamble was told by security at the

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location this would be outside of protocol. Detective Gamble was able to see on the surveillance that Michael returns out of the same above described bushes at approximately 2:35 AM on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Michael can be seen driving the cart back to his area of work while carrying a white trash type back that contains some unknown items. At approximately 2:52 AM on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Michael can be seen leaving the main building from a different door wearing his work shirt. He does not have his backpack and he is again carrying the white trash bag. This would not be consistent with Michael's above described statement he was at work his whole shift. On or about May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019, Detective Emmons received exigent phone information from AT&T for the phone identified as belonging to Michael. Detective Emmons told me the following about the location information he received. On May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at around 8:55 PM Michael's phone begins using cell towers indicating it was moving south away from his place of work. At approximately 9:00 Michael's phone is using a cell tower in downtown Salem that would cover the area around Karissa's above described address. At approximately 9:42 PM Michael's phone is still using said towers in Salem. On May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at approximately 1:38 AM Michael's phone starts using cell towers indicating it was moving north. At approximately 1:43 AM Michael's phone is using a tower in Keizer, Or, indicating it is still moving north. At approximately 2:12 AM Michael's phone is again using a tower near his place of work, consistent with the general time he can be seen returning to work. On May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at approximately 4:34 AM, Michaels phone is using a tower in the area of his residence. The above described information would be consistent with Michael and Karissa's phones being in the same approximate place during this time. Based on the above described facts, the circumstances of Karissa and William's disappearance, and the fact she has not been heard from or seen since the time the described facts indicate Michael and Karissa were together, I believe there is probable cause to arrest Michael Wolfe for the listed crimes.

Under Penalty of Perjury, I declare that I have examined this statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct and complete and is based on all the information of which the preparer has any knowledge.

  
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Signature of Officer

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SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 24 day of May, 2019.

 37254

X Release Assistance Officer  
       Deputy Clerk of Court

✓ I find probable cause exists to believe the arrestee committed the crime(s).

       I find insufficient probable cause exists, based on the information provided herein.

Judge: 

Date / Time: 5/26/19 3:24 pm

       Defendant released before probable cause determination.